



## Forest Cutting Plans and Timber Harvesting 101 for Conservation Commissioners and other Municipal Departments

*to be held on a recent forestry project site*

**Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 am to noon**

**Southbridge, MA**

**(Directions to the property will be provided to registrants.)**

*A free Workshop provided by the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC).*

Forests play a critical role in the character of our region and are vital for natural habitat, outdoor recreation and natural/ecosystems services (such as helping to supply clean water and air). The majority of the forested land in Massachusetts is owned in relatively small parcels by private landowners. For many landowners, any plan to conserve and protect forests needs to include the ability to carry out good forestry and timber harvesting using best management practices (BMPs).

What role do Conservation Commissions play implementing the Chapter 132 Forest Cutting Practices Act? Commissions have the opportunity to review and comment on cutting plans. Come learn how to review a timber cutting plan, see what a timber sale is all about, learn how landowner goals and site conditions can impact timber harvest decisions, and see what some forestry BMPs look like on the ground.

The workshop will be held in Southbridge on a property managed by Opacum Land Trust where a timber harvest was conducted in 2016 and 2017, along with the first phase of an invasive plant removal effort as part of overall land management of the property. The workshop will be led by Scott Gerrish, the Forester who oversaw the harvest; Chris Capone, the DCR Service Forester for the region; and Michèle Girard, Associate Director of MACC.

Topics to be covered:

- Understanding a Conservation Commission's role implementing the Forest Cutting Practices Act
- Learning how to read and review a Forest Cutting Plan
- Translating what's described in the plan to actual practices on the ground
- Learn about conservation the benefits of forestry and well-managed timber harvesting
- Providing guidance to landowners to help inform decisions about the future of their land

**This program will be held outside in the woods and will include walking over rough ground, so please dress accordingly, including sturdy shoes.**

***To register for this free workshop please contact Michèle Girard at MACC  
at [michele.girard@maccweb.org](mailto:michele.girard@maccweb.org) or by calling 617-489-3930  
Registration is required to receive directions to the site.***